

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 897

By Howell

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William Kenneth "Bill" Norwood of Cleveland.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of William Kenneth "Bill" Norwood; and

WHEREAS, Bill Norwood was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norwood was a Polk County native and the eldest of three children born to William J. Norwood and Alice Stone Burnette; and

WHEREAS, with an unwavering sense of duty and patriotism, Bill Norwood enlisted in the United States Army at the age of eighteen and served as a corporal in the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norwood was among the nation's few remaining former prisoners of war from that era. After surviving an ambush and being captured, Mr. Norwood was marched for hundreds of miles during a period of several months before arriving above the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel to a Chinese prison camp in Ch'ang-Song, where he suffered horrendously for two and one-half years before at last being released to the United States and freedom; and

WHEREAS, for his steadfast service during a terrible conflict, Bill Norwood was awarded the POW Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Korean Service Medal with ten battle stars, the United Nations Service Medal, the South Korean Government Service Medal, and the South Korean Government Presidential Medallion; he also met the qualifications for a Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, after returning to the United States, Mr. Norwood served with acumen and alacrity as an employee of Top Value Enterprises, in which position he earned the respect of his

peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work until the time of his retirement; and

WHEREAS, after retiring, Bill Norwood dedicated himself to being a voice for fellow veterans and POWs, hoping to preserve their stories and memories for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norwood was the founder of the Korean War Ex-POW Association and served for more than ten years as its president. He also initiated Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, which has since been taken over by the Sons of the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norwood was also a lifetime member of American Ex-Prisoners of War, Korean War Veterans Association, American Legion Post 81, Disabled American Veterans, AmVets Chapter 25, the Bradley County Veterans Affairs Office, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2598, which he served as chaplain. He also served on the Bradley County Veteran Funeral Honor Guard for twenty-four years and was an honorary lifetime member of the Col. Benjamin Chapter of the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Norwood received the Raymond Miller Award, the Charles H. Coolidge Veteran of the Year Award, and the Bill Norwood Award, which was established in his honor to recognize outstanding service to veterans affairs in the community. He was also honored by the entire Cleveland community after the Cleveland City Council unanimously approved the placement of a granite statue of Mr. Norwood, which is now under construction in the city's 1<sup>st</sup> Street Square; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Bill Norwood will be fondly remembered by his loving wife of sixty-three years, Elizabeth Lyons Norwood; his children, Dennis Norwood and Paula Norwood; his grandson, Daniel Norwood; his great-grandsons, William and Anderson Norwood; his sister, Mary Ellen Norwood Janes; his several nieces and nephews; and a host of friends and fellow veterans he had met throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norwood leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Bradley County, D. Gary Davis, lamented that "Bradley County, our region, the State of Tennessee, and indeed the nation is a better place today because people such as Bill Norwood lived"; and

WHEREAS, Tom Rowland, the Mayor of Cleveland, also expressed his condolences, calling Mr. Norwood "a hero's hero"; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should also pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and astounding human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of William Kenneth "Bill" Norwood, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his valiant military service, his steadfast dedication to fellow veterans and POWS, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Norwood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.